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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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SOURCE

1. The kolkhoznik has no passport, and thus cannot leave the kolkhoz; the industrial worker is frozen on his job by the decree of 1940, and cannot leave without permission, which can be obtained for family or health reasons.
2. The laws concerning mobility of industrial workers were not always thoroughly enforced. There were three basic documents: (a) the passport; (b) the spravka, which is a job-release document showing time of employment on previous job, work record, etc; and (c) the work book. The work book contains the entire work record of the individual, including the information recorded on the spravka, and is taken up by the factory administration when he is hired and returned to him when he is released or fired.
3. To get a job, all three are legally required. However, only the passport is absolutely essential. Plants with a desperate need for workers frequently are willing to overlook the lack of a spravka or work book. Such extra-legal hiring was more common after World War II than in the pre-war period, because of a greater scarcity of labor in the postwar period. The frequency of extra-legal hiring had not changed from 1946 to 1949. The spravka was strictly required during the war because the job applicant might be a deserter.

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